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Office of the Chief, Economic Research
(Staff Meeting held 15 April 1958, 1315 hours in Room 1128 H Building)

Research Program for FY 1959

Action

A special Panel of outside consultants met on 9 and 10 April to review the draft ERA research program for FY 1959. The Panel consisted of the following persons:

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The Panel's report, prepared by Mr. [REDACTED] will be circulated to all Branches. With respect to the program the Panel made two principal suggestions: that the ERA undertake studies of the long-range future of the Soviet economy, and that more attention be given in ORR economic reports to the sociological and political factors that may influence future economic developments.

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These suggestions were discussed at the ERA staff meeting. [REDACTED] stated that he thinks the Panel's suggestions are sound and indicated that certain studies, currently in process, are basic to studies of the long-range future of the Soviet economy - namely, the D/M project on the USSR materials and energy base, the EIC project on agriculture, the project on housing, and the proposed project on light industry. Division chiefs were requested to review the proposed research program for FY 1959, with a view to re-orienting some of the projects to give them a longer-range focus. Revised project statements are due to St/ER on 22 April.

Coordination of ERA Research Program

Action

Copies of the revised draft program are to be formally submitted to ONE, OSI, ODI, OBI, and OCR, together with a memorandum from Mr. Guthe. The program will also be coordinated with DD/P. The copies will be sent out on 26 April, with a request that comments be submitted by 9 May.

Establishment of an Economic Advisory Council

Action

The Consultants Panel also recommended the

establishment of a rotating advisory council of academic and business economists who would meet periodically to review portions of the program or specific reports of ORR. ORR is enthusiastic about this idea, and letters will be drafted to Panel members asking them for suggestions of persons to serve on this council. [REDACTED] suggested that we try to get the Council established in time to have it review our contribution to the Soviet NIE, due in September.

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OCI Reading Panel

Information

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[REDACTED] stated that the OCI reading panel needs ORR help in order to route documents properly. [REDACTED] who heads the panel, will welcome any amendments to the present requirements. She also welcomes analysts to come over and discuss their needs.

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Information

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The ERA Representatives will meet with Mr. [REDACTED] this afternoon, 15 April at 2 p.m.

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